

**GEORGE MILLER**

7TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0507  
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[www.house.gov/georgemiller](http://www.house.gov/georgemiller)

DANIEL WEISS  
CHIEF OF STAFF

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE  
SENIOR DEMOCRAT

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN  
November 29, 2007

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0507

BARBARA JOHNSON  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
1333 WILLOW PASS ROAD  
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CONCORD, CA 94520  
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(510) 262-6500

375 G STREET  
SUITE #1  
VALLEJO, CA 94592  
(707) 645-1888

TTY (202) 225-1904

Benicia City Council  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

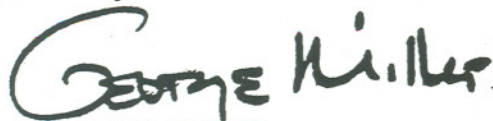
Dear Mayor Messina and Councilmembers:

I am writing in strong support of the City of Benicia's request for \$1,000,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Ridge Trail program to widen the I-780 overpass at State Park Road.

This overpass provides a critical link of the Ridge Trail in Solano County in two directions: from Vallejo and the Carquinez Bridge and from Benicia and the Benicia Martinez Bridge. As you know, the new Zampa Bridge has pedestrian and bicycle access as will the Benicia Bridge when the old span is retrofitted in two years. Crossing I-780 at Columbus Parkway connects the Ridge Trail to the Buffer Trail between Vallejo and Benicia and points north. Current use of the overpass by either walkers or cyclists is dangerous since there is no real sidewalk and the two traffic lanes are narrow. Building a pedestrian/bicycle overpass will correct this deficiency.

I have been a ardent supporter of the Ridge Trail for twenty years and have attended many of their dedication ceremonies in both Solano and Contra Costa Counties. This project is critical for both Benicia and Vallejo, and I hope you are successful with your request.

Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER  
Member of Congress  
7th District, California



November 27, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
Attn: Abe Doherty  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Bay Trail Project is a nonprofit organization administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) that plans, promotes and advocates for the implementation of a continuous 500-mile bicycling and hiking path around San Francisco Bay. When complete, the trail will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties, and cross seven toll bridges. To date, slightly more than half the length of the Bay Trail alignment has been developed. Approximately 7 miles of Bay Trail are located in the City of Benicia.

It is our understanding that the City of Benicia is applying for a grant from the Bay Area Ridge Trail to widen the I-780 overpass at Columbus Parkway. The Bay Trail Project enthusiastically supports this grant application as the resulting project will complete an important connection between the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the San Francisco Bay Trail, and will provide a safe way for cyclists and pedestrians to access both of these regionally important recreational facilities. The Bay and Ridge Trail Projects have recently begun a collaborative effort to complete our respective portions of trail along the Carquinez Strait, and the I-780 overcrossing is an important component of this effort. If you have any questions about the Bay Trail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 464-7935, or by e-mail at [laurat@abag.ca.gov](mailto:laurat@abag.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Thompson".

Laura Thompson  
Bay Trail Project Manager





BAY AREA  
RIDGE TRAIL  
COUNCIL

November 29, 2007

Benicia City Council  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Mayor Messina and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Solano County Ridge Trail Committee, I am writing in strong support of the City of Benicia's request for \$1,000,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Ridge Trail program to widen the I-780 overpass at State Park Road.

This overpass provides a critical link of the Ridge Trail in Solano County in two directions: from Vallejo and the Carquinez Bridge and from Benicia and the Benicia Martinez Bridge. As you know, the new Zampa Bridge has pedestrian and bicycle access as will the Benicia Bridge when the old span is retrofitted in two years. Crossing I-780 at Columbus Parkway connects the Ridge Trail to the Buffer Trail between Vallejo and Benicia and points north. Current use of the overpass by either walkers or cyclists is dangerous since there is no real sidewalk and the two traffic lanes are narrow. Building a pedestrian/bicycle overpass will correct this deficiency.

With all the new growth along Rose Drive in Benicia and along Columbus Parkway in Vallejo with the recent approval of the Bordoni project, more and more residents are using the Benicia State Recreation Area for exercise and need a safe way to cross I-780. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this project not only for the Ridge Trail but for the hundreds of Vallejo and Benicia residents who will use it.

Thank you for your long-time support of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and your leadership with this project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hoffman, Co-Chair  
Solano Ridge Trail Committee  
307 Palo Verde Way  
Vallejo, CA 94589



*Solano Transportation Authority*

One Harbor Center, Suite 130  
Suisun City, California 94585

Area Code 707  
424-6075 • Fax 424-6074

January 13, 2005

*Members:*

Benicia  
Dixon  
Fairfield  
Rio Vista  
Solano County  
Suisun City  
Vacaville  
Vallejo

Mr. Doug Johnson  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
101 Eight Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Re: Solano County's Priority Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects Letter of  
Support for MTC's Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Board, I would like to express STA's support for the following three countywide priority bicycle and pedestrian projects as candidates for the Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Program:

1. City of Benicia's Bicycle Project - State Park Road/ I-780  
Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge and Path
2. City of Fairfield's Pedestrian Project- Fairfield Linear Park Trail: North  
Texas Street to Dover Avenue
3. City of Vallejo's Pedestrian Project- Vallejo Station Downtown  
Pedestrian Link

All three projects are either identified in the STA's Countywide Bicycle Plan or Countywide Pedestrian Plan as priority projects. Benicia's State Park Road project is identified as 1 of 4 top priority bicycle projects for Solano County. Benicia's bicycle project will improve access and safety for bicyclists for a countywide and regionally significant link across I-780 between the cities of Benicia and Vallejo. The STA's Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) unanimously recommended support for this project given its potential benefits of for both pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition, the PAC had an additional opportunity to review and provide input for the cities of Fairfield's and Vallejo's pedestrian oriented projects. Although both projects could potentially serve cyclists as well, each project primarily benefits pedestrians. Both projects are within a 1/4 mile of transit locations. Vallejo's pedestrian project will link Downtown Vallejo to their planned intermodal station and Fairfield's pedestrian project will provide an important link between two busy arterials for pedestrians to access an important local bus transfer center. Fairfield's pedestrian project is also located in a planned redevelopment area; this project would help in the city's effort to revitalize the project area. On January 6th, 2005 the Pedestrian Advisory Committee



unanimously recommended support for both of these pedestrian oriented projects. The STA Board unanimously supported all three projects on January 12, 2005.

Please contact Robert Guerrero, Associate Planner at 707.424.6014 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mary Ann Courville*

Mary Ann Courville, Chair  
Mayor, City of Dixon

Attachments:

- A. STA BAC Letter of Support for Benicia's State Park Road/ I-780 Overcrossing Bicycle Project
- B. STA PAC Letter of Support for Fairfield's Linear Park and Vallejo's Pedestrian Link Project

Cc: STA Board Members

Dan Shiada, City of Benicia Public Works Department  
Brian Miller, City of Fairfield Planning and Development Department  
Gary Leach, City of Vallejo Public Works Department



*Solano Transportation Authority*

One Harbor Center, Suite 130  
Suisun City, California 94585

Area Code 707  
424-6075 • Fax 424-6074

January 3, 2005

*Members:*

Benicia  
Dixon  
Fairfield  
Rio Vista  
Solano County  
Suisun City  
Vacaville  
Vallejo

Karin McMillan, Chair  
Solano Transportation Authority  
One Harbor Center, Suite 130  
Suisun City, CA 94585

Re: Support for Benicia's State Park Road/ I-780 Overcrossing Bicycle Project

Dear Ms. McMillan:

The Solano Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) reviewed the City of Benicia's State Park Road/ I-780 Overcrossing application for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Bicycle/ Pedestrian Program at our December 16, 2004 meeting. As an advisory committee to the STA Board, the BAC unanimously recommended the STA Board support Benicia's application primarily for its importance in the countywide/regional bicycle network. This project is part of the regional bicycle network contained in MTC's Regional Bicycle Master Plan and is one of the four priority projects listed in STA's Countywide Bicycle Plan update completed in 2004. It would provide much needed improvements to an important segment of the Benicia - Vallejo Bicycle Route.

With the Benicia/Martinez Bridge being completed in the next 2 years, bicyclists will then be able to have a continuous route from the Benicia/ Martinez Bridge bicycle path to the Al Zampa (Carquinez) Bridge bicycle path while traveling through the State Park Road/ I-780 Overcrossing Project segment.

While the BAC reviewed the Benicia project primarily for its importance to the bicycling community, we also understand its enormous potential benefit to pedestrian users and that the project is also identified in the STA's Countywide Pedestrian Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.B. Davis", is written over a horizontal line.

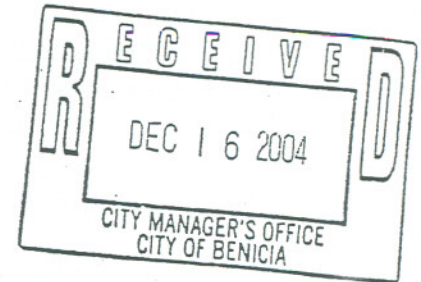
J.B. Davis, Chair  
Solano Bicycle Advisory Committee



# BENICIA BICYCLE CLUB

December 15, 2004

Mayor Steve Messini  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510



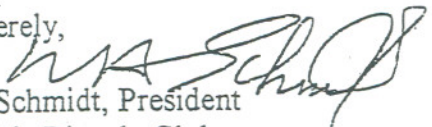
Dear Mayor Messini,

I am writing on behalf of the Benicia Bicycle Club in support of the City of Benicia's \$1,328,000 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (RBPP) grant request for the State Park Road Bike/Pedestrian Bridge and Path project.

This grant will allow the City of Benicia to construct a Class I bike path from the Rose Drive/Columbus Parkway intersection along State Park Road and over I-780 to the Benicia State Recreation Area. The project will remove a critical gap in the Solano Countywide Bicycle network, connecting north and south Benicia, Vallejo and the city of Benicia, and most of Napa and Solano Counties with the Bay Trail and recreational resources on the Carquinez Strait. This link will become even more critical in the near future when the Bay Trail is connected with the bike lanes on the new Benicia/Martinez Bridge (now under construction) and new Carquinez (Al Zampa) Bridge connecting Solano County with Contra Costa County with Benicia.

As of today, bicyclists, joggers, pedestrian, including students attending Middle and Benicia High School, as well as mothers pushing baby carriages are forced to merge with or dodge automobiles when crossing the existing automobile bridge over I-780 to cross the freeway exit-on ramp when pedaling across State Park Road when exiting the State Recreation Area heading north. These conditions are very hazardous and merit immediate corrective action. The members of the Benicia Bicycle Club have looked forward to the day when we can ride safely across I-780 via a Ped/Bicycle bridge to the other side of the City of Benicia. I hope the City of Benicia is successful with this grant application.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Schmidt, President  
Benicia Bicycle Club

Cc: Jim Erickson, City Manager  
Dan Schiada, Director of Public Works



BAY AREA  
RIDGE TRAIL  
COUNCIL

Dan Schiada,  
Public Works Director  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

May 9, 2008

Dear Mr. Schiada,

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (Ridge Trail) is pleased to once again partner with the City of Benicia on a Ridge Trail project in Benicia – this time for the construction of the State Park Road Bike/Pedestrian Bridge and Path Project. As you know, we are creating an uninterrupted 550+ mile multi-use path on the ridgelines around San Francisco Bay and over 310 miles are now dedicated for public enjoyment.

On May 8, 2008, the Ridge Trail Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Ridge Trail Board of Directors, endorsed a grant request from the City of Benicia for \$241,500 to help fund the construction of a .25 mile Ridge Trail segment that will cross over State Highway 780 in Solano County. The next step is to get final approval from the California Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to allocate monies from their Bay Area Ridge Trail program funds. We will ask SCC staff to place this grant endorsement on their Board's agenda later this year.

We understand that this grant will be matched by grants from several sources totaling \$3,696,500 and that you are working with the Bay Trail for a grant that would, if approved, complete the project's funding needs.

This project is the first trail link to be funded in our new Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail Project which is a key focus of both the Ridge Trail and Bay Trail this year. Our goal is to close as many gaps as possible in a 50-mile loop around the Strait to coincide with the 2009 opening of the new pedestrian/bike path on the Benicia Martinez Bridge. Soon we will be providing you more details about this exciting new project as it relates to completing other Ridge Trail/Bay Trail segments in Benicia.

1007 GENERAL KENNEDY AVENUE, SUITE 3, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129-1405

(415) 561-2595 FAX: (415) 561-2599

INFO@RIDGETRAIL.ORG WWW.RIDGETRAIL.ORG



On behalf of the Ridge Trail Council, our members, Bay Area residents and visitors, we thank you for your continued support and commitment to public recreational access in Benicia and to completing the Bay Area Ridge Trail through your community. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to complete this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dee Swanhuysen".

Dee Swanhuysen, North Bay Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council